



Horizon West Africa – Mali 150 Metres Route de Koulikoro Sotuba ACI Route 3EME Pont, Bamako
Horizon West Africa - Nigeria No. 101 Midel Centre, Oladipo Diya Way, Gudu District, Abuja, FCT

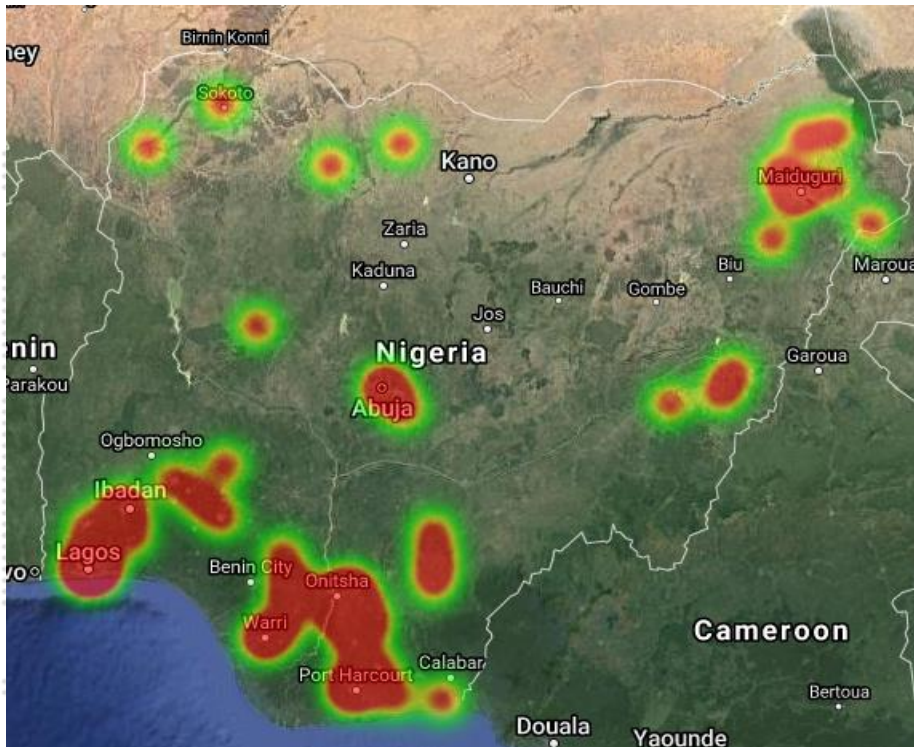
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DATE: 24 January 2021

WEEKLY INCIDENT REPORT

Covering period from 0000-hour 18 January 2020 to 1600 hours 24 January 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

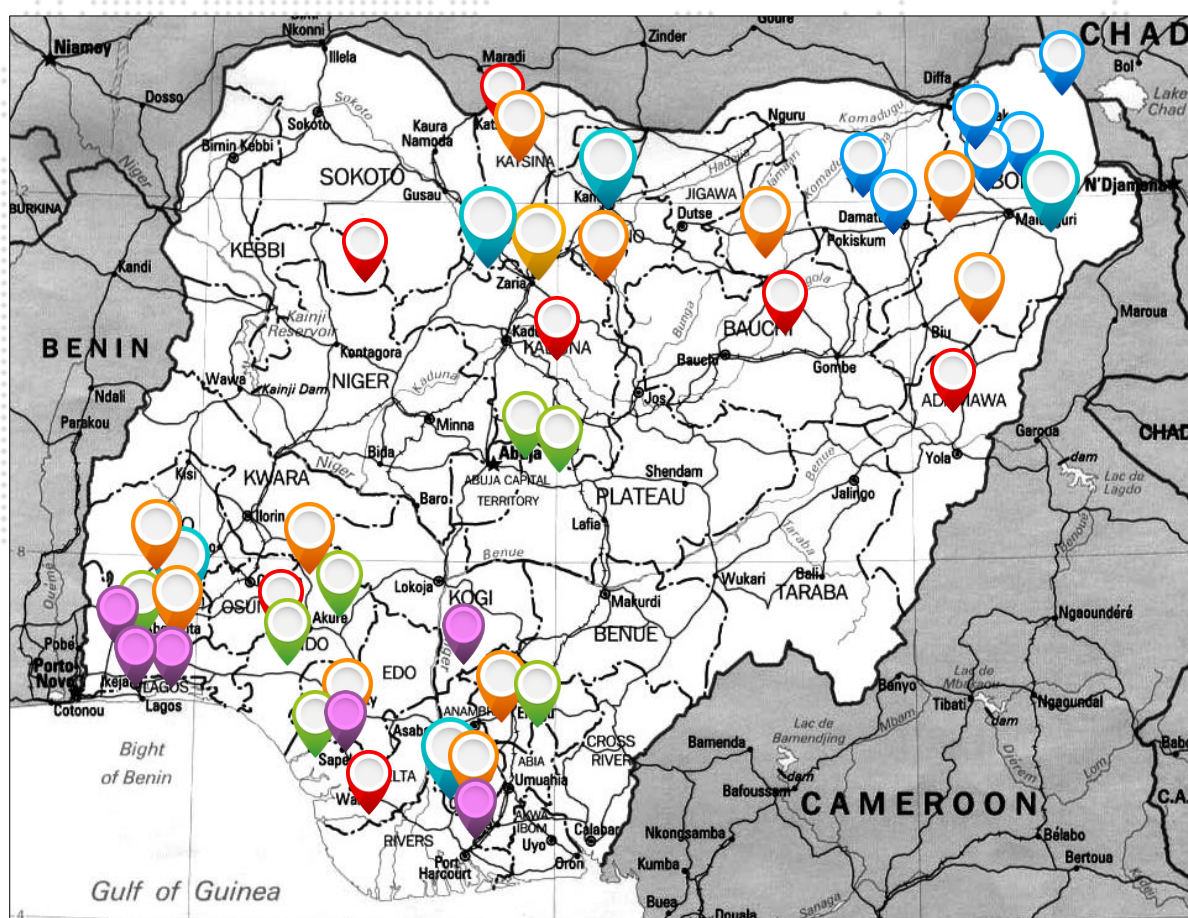


WEEKLY THREAT LEVEL ASSEMENT – Medium

LEVEL		SCORE	THREAT
High	Very High	5	Red
	High	4	
Medium	Medium	3	Yellow
	Low	2	
Low	Very Low	1	Green

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS FOR THE WEEK

1. Tension in the SW as most communities demanded the eviction of Fulani herdsmen.
2. Military offensive operation continued in Northwest and North East regions during the reporting week. It seemed effective in the NW as it drove down kidnappings but, in the NE, BH activities were recorded.
3. COVID-19 restrictions ordered by some states.
4. Number of kidnappings declined in the week. Clients are advised to take adequate measures to safeguard their foreign and local personnel.



THREAT	Code
Kidnapping	Red
Killing	Orange
Civil unrest	Green
Armed conflict	Teal
Arrest	Yellow
Robbery	Purple
Terrorism	Blue

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH CENTRAL (NC) REGION



1. On 18 January, seven vigilantes were killed while several others were injured in an ambush by bandits in Mashegu, Niger State.

2. On 19 January, members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) held a march to demand release of their detained leader, El Zakzaky along Wuse Market road, Abuja, FCT.

3. On 19 January, armed men abducted the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Anchor University along Kurmi Shinkafa village, Kokona LGA, Nasarawa State.

4. On 24 January, the Chairman of Ardo-Kola LGA and his nephew were killed by armed men after he was kidnapped from his home in Jalingo, Taraba State.

Analysis

The NC is recording more bandit activities and there is a possibility that as military operations intensify in the NW, more of these armed groups will find their way to the NC and eventually to the South.

Niger State is recording more incidents attributed to bandits and in less than a week after vigilante groups and soldiers conducted operations against these armed groups in the state, seven vigilantes were killed and several others were injured in Mashegu. This could possibly be a reprisal by the bandits. Also, in Nasarawa State, on 18 January, it was reported that seven soldiers out of 14 on a rescue mission in the forest along Mararaba-Udege road were ambushed and killed. It can be concluded that more kidnappings and attacks are occurring in the NC than reported and these bandits are hiding out in the surrounding forests ready to strike. The story however changed after the Governor of Nasarawa, Abdullahi Sule announced that Boko Haram insurgents are actually behind the recent attacks recorded in the state as they are reportedly operating from the Nasarawa/Benue border after the military was able to dislodge them from Toto LGA of the state. He also disclosed that the insurgents are also present in Niger State. This narrative means not only is there a possibility of insurgent presence in the NW, they are also present in the NC and this makes the possibility of attacks being conducted in Abuja FCT is imminent now more than ever.

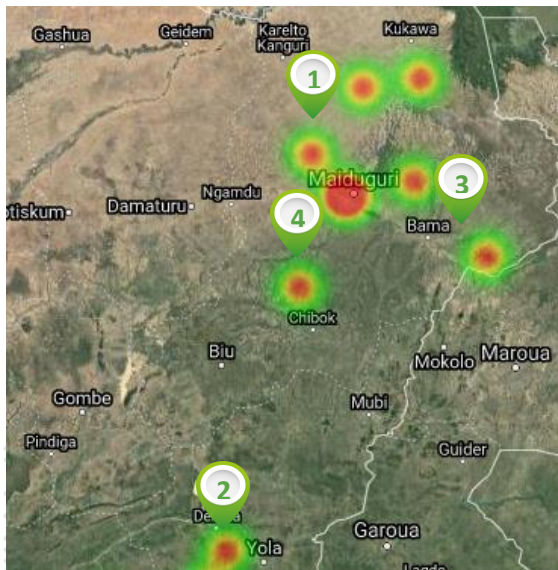
One of the ten fire incidents which occurred during the week was recorded in Benue State. An estimated 18 houses were destroyed when fire broke out early on 21 January into the next day. The fire was ignited by residents who set fire to dried grass as a hunting mechanism and possibly due to the harmattan season which commenced on 18 January, the fire destroyed everything in its paths and coupled with a non-existent fire service, the spread was inevitable.

Two protests were recorded in Abuja FCT and they were organised by the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) who seem to have recommenced their daily protests as witnessed in 2020 demanding the release of their leader

Ibrahim El Zakzaky and his wife. These protests sometimes turn violent but thus far it has been peaceful depending mostly on response by security forces. The news of Zeenah the wife of El Zakzaky catching COVID-19 and not getting proper care could also trigger more protests in the next reporting week. This was disclosed on 21 January after by her son who went on a routine visit.



OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH EAST (NE) REGION



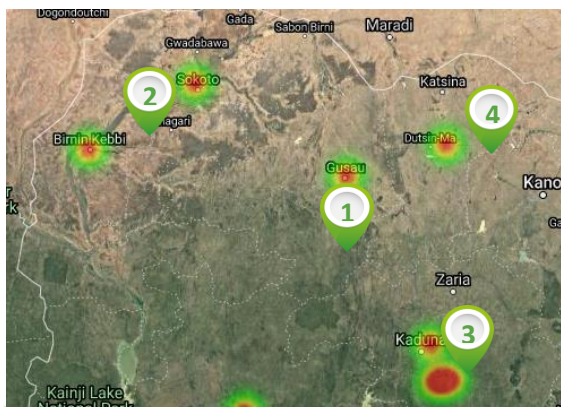
1. On 18 January, an unknown number of suspected Boko Haram insurgents during an armed conflict with soldiers in Frigi village, Borno State
2. On 19 January, a monarch was kidnapped by armed men who invaded his residence in Mayo-Farang, Mayo Belwa LGA, Adamawa State.
3. On 20 January, Boko Haram insurgents were killed by soldiers along Gasarwa axis, Monguno road, Borno State. Several arms and ammunition including five gun trucks were recovered.
4. On 21 January, an unknown number of Boko Haram insurgent were sighted IVO Daban Wanzam along Baga axis, Borno State.

Analysis

The military continued counter-insurgency operations in the reporting week. Although the operations have been intense, there remains loopholes as Boko Haram continues to infiltrate communities. On 21 and 22 January, insurgents were sighted in Baga and Mafa LGA. Reports however claimed, soldiers were present engaging the assailants in firefights. Number of casualties unknown.

Bauchi and Adamawa states recorded kidnapping incidents in which local representatives were kidnapped on different days but released on the same day, 20 January. For the Bauchi State incident, the victim was kept hostage for six days while Adamawa incident was for three days. In both incidents it was not disclosed if ransoms were paid but there is a high possibility that it was. Like a maze, these incidents keep happening and there seem to be no end in sight to the problem.

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH WEST (NW) REGION



1. On 19 January, a commander of the Joint Task Force (JTF) Intelligence Group was shot and killed by

suspected armed bandits at an undisclosed location in Zamfara State.

2. On 19 January, a fire destroyed several properties at Sokoto Market, Sokoto State.

3. On 21 January, one person was killed by armed men whilst attempting to kidnap him in Ugwan Sada, Giwa LGA, Kaduna State.

4. On 22 January, village head of Raddah community, Charanchi LGA, Katsina State was kidnapped while his brother was injured by armed men.

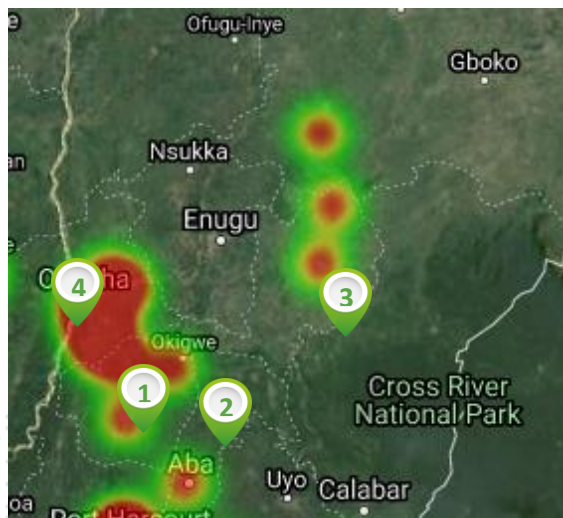
Analysis

The issue with banditry remains unresolved as Zamfara, Kaduna and Katsina recorded incidents during the reporting period. Airstrikes have been the major mode of military operation in these states but this has not deterred the armed groups from orchestrating attacks mostly in Kaduna State between 20 and 22 January. At least 7 individuals were kidnapped during week which is a major decline compared to last reporting periods. The current military operation might be effective but how long can it hold before the military relaxes its engagement.

The National President of Southern Kaduna People's Union (SOKAPU), Jonathan Asake announced that insecurity has worsened in Southern Kaduna specifically Chikun LGA with an estimated 80 percent of residents unable to return to their ancestral lands. He added that between January and December 2020, victims in Southern Kaduna had paid N900 million (USD 2.4 billion) as a ransom to their abductors. Notably, residents of Southern Kaduna are majorly Christians. Also, the Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company (KADECO) has closed down operations in Kafanchan and evacuated staff following protests that led to the burning of their offices over increase in tariff and poor power supply. This will result in total disconnect of the community from electricity supply till further notice.

In Sokoto State, parts of Shehu Shagari Modern Market, popularly known as New Market, was destroyed by early morning fire which started around 6 a.m. and continued till midday. Traders were seen rushing to evacuate their goods in parts which had not been affected by the fire. The recent number of fire incidents is a cause for concern in Nigeria.

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH EAST (SE) REGION



1. On 20 January, a fire incident was reported at Empire filling station, along Aba road, Owerri North LGA, Imo State. The fire was triggered by illegal siphon of fuel in the area.

2. On 21 January, a man identified as a Point of Sale (POS) money transaction operator was shot and killed by four armed robbers aboard a tricycle in

Aba, Abia State. The assailants made away with an unknown amount of money.

3. On 21 January, individuals held a protest at Abakaliki High Court complex, Ebonyi State to demand the reinstatement of Nwebonyi as the chairman of the state's Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP).

4. On 22 January, a fire destroyed several shops along Nnewi-Nnobi road, Anambra State. The fire was reportedly triggered while a tanker was transferring its content to a smaller tanker at a filling station.

Analysis

Fire and RTC were major incidents during the week in the SE. Two fire incidents which both occurred at filling stations were recorded in Imo and Anambra states. The unsafe methods used in the transfer of petroleum products in the country has been the cause of major accidents. In the reporting week not only were tankers the major source of fire incidents, they were also the cause of a road traffic accident in Imo State.

In Abia State, a robbery incident was recorded in which a point-of-sale merchant was shot by four armed men aboard a tricycle at his shop in Aba around 1030 hours and later died from his injuries. The assailants carted away a large sum of money. It was reported that POS traders have been attacked at a high rate in Aba and this had not been making the news. This is one of the dangers of cash movement in the country. These POS traders have become a faster solution to banks who have lately become ineffective in making cash available to customers. They therefore carry a lot of cash to their own detriment as it opens them up to robbery attacks which has reportedly been plaguing the state.

In Enugu State, on the evening of 23 January, Oruku was under siege by armed men who reportedly killed several individuals and set ablaze the house belonging to the Igwe who was killed by men who are allegedly police officers in plain clothes on 27 December 2020. Reason for this attack remains unclear.

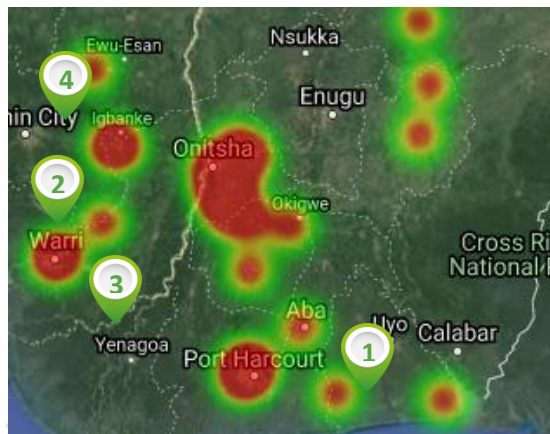
In Ebonyi, armed conflict resulting in killings and destruction of properties was recorded in Ohaukwu LGA. The clash might be political as it resulted in the arrest of the Chairman of the LGA, Clement Odah and lawmaker



representing Ohaukwu North Constituency, Chinedu Awọ including 30 other major stakeholders from the community. The arrest was reportedly ordered by the Deputy Governor of the State, Kelechi Igwe.



OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH SOUTH (SS) REGION



1. On 18 January, militants reportedly attacked a privately owned shipbuilding facility located at the boundary shoreline of Urok Anam LGA, Akwa Ibom State. The attackers arrived aboard gunboats, shot sporadically to disperse the staff and destroyed some equipment.

Analysis

Delta State remained the hub of most incidents which occurred in the SS during the reporting week. Kidnapping, fire, robbery, protest and domestic violence were the major incidents in the week.

On 19 January, youths held a demonstration in Warri, to protest alleged marginalisation by the Egbema & Gbaramatu Communities Development Foundation (EGCDF). This is an age long issue in the Niger/Delta which has suffered neglect despite being the region producing the crude oil which is the major revenue in the country. These types of protest are common in the area and mostly used by militants as reason to threaten production stoppage if demands are not met. The next day, a woman and her child were killed in an accident reportedly caused by police officers chasing suspected internet fraudsters. This led to a violent protest by youths in the area and the police denied being the cause of the incident. In Agbor a gas plant explosion resulted in several casualties making it one of the most fatal fire incidents that occurred during the week.

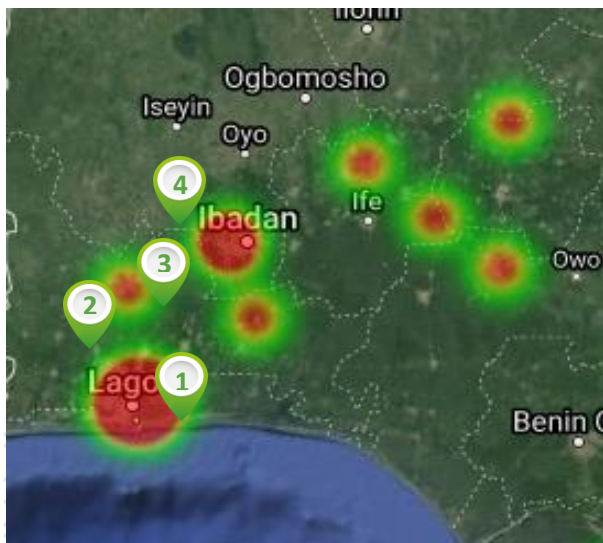
The Chairman of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, (SSANU) Delta State University, Abraka Branch was kidnapped by armed men along Eku-Abraka road in Erho while returning from Warri where he had gone for an official engagement on 21 January. No contact has been made with his family.

2. On 19 January, youths of Egbema and Gbaramatu community are currently holding a demonstration in Warri, Delta state to protest alleged marginalization by the Egbema & Gbaramatu Communities Development Foundation (EGCDF).

3. On 20 January, youths held a demonstration IVO, Petroleum training institute, Warri, Delta State to protest the death of a mother and child killed by a police van chasing suspected internet fraudster.

4. On 20 January, unknown gunmen killed a private security guard while traveling along Benin-Auchi road, Edo State.

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH WEST (SW) REGION



1. On 18 January, two suspected cult members

were arrested following an armed conflict with police officers in Igbelara area, Ikorodu, Lagos State while several others escaped with gunshot injuries.

2. On 19 January, a fuel laden tanker truck reportedly exploded in Kuto, Abeokuta, Ogun State. Casualty count remains unknown.

3. On 20 January, several individuals are currently holding a demonstration to protest incessant killings by Dangote group truck drivers in Ijebu Igbo, Ogun State.

4. On 22 January, the residence of Seriki Fulani of Igarapa was set ablaze by angry youths in Igarapa LGA, Oyo State.

Analysis

The unrest which had been brewing in Oyo State specifically in Igarapa LGA further heightened this week. The series of events have been highlighted in the last two reporting periods and it could be the basis for ethnic crisis in the next reporting period. With a bit of history, political experts predicted in 2018 that Fulani herdsmen will further be emboldened in the South if President Muhammadu Buhari who is reportedly of Fulani decent was re-elected. They further suggested that the area in which they would infiltrate is Oyo State in relation to the regime of former Governor of the state Lam Adesina. Oyo State is rich in dense forests which is where the herdsmen prefer to stay but the recent insecurities, disrespect for the locals and bias by the present government has led to a series of accusations, counter accusations in the area.

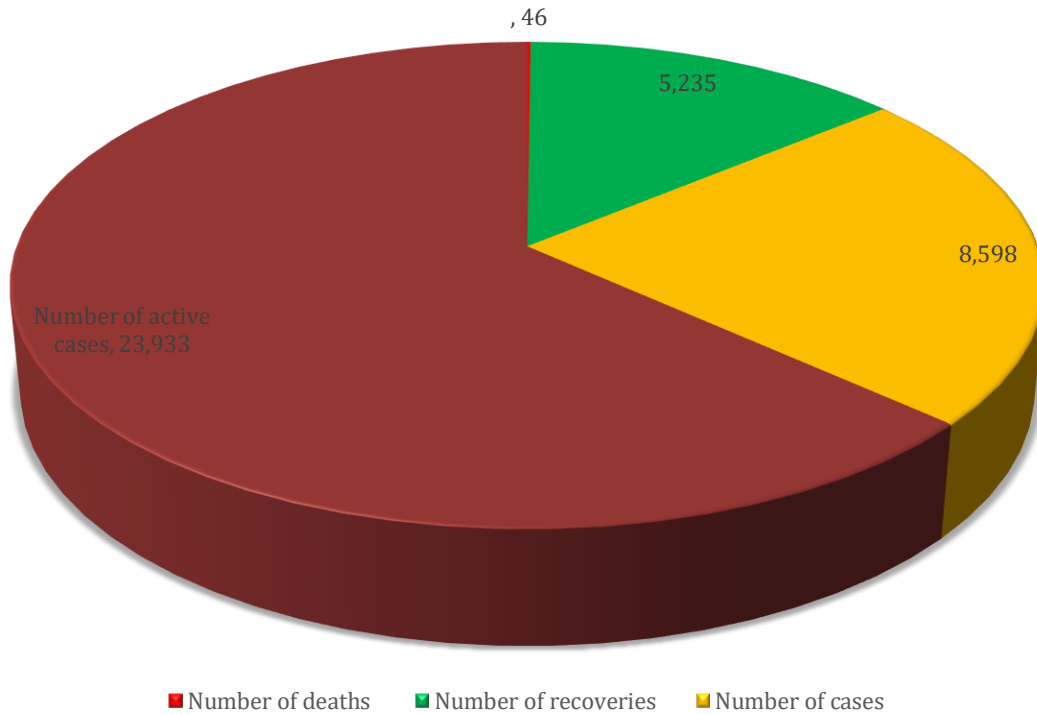
By the last week of December 2020, there was a lot of activities by the Amotekun security outfit especially in Igarapa LGA. Reports emerged that farmers and residents were terrorised by Fulani herdsmen making it difficult for them to go about their daily business. In what seemed like a turn of events it was reported that the traditional ruler of Igarapa's son was kidnapped and he had to pay N4 million (USD 10,500) to negotiate for his release which was possibly what triggered the following events. On 16 January it was reported that an agitator known as Sunday Ighoho issued a seven-day ultimatum to all Fulanis living in Igarapa LGA to leave or face the consequences. On 22 January despite security forces efforts, they were unable to prevent him from revisiting the LGA and riling up the youths who eventually went to burn the house of the Seriki Fulani.

Before the chaos in Oyo, the Governor of Ondo State, Akeredolu earlier in the week, had issued the same ultimatum for all herdsmen in the bushes to come out or face consequences. Immediately, a statement was

issued by the faceless “presidency” that the governor did not have a right to issue such command. Noteworthy, Ondo State has also been affected by the recent insecurities with kidnappings being the major threat and despite the creation of the regional security group known as Amotekun, they have been unable to combat the insecurities in the state. Now Ekiti, Oyo, Osun, Ogun and Ondo have all issued ultimatums to herdsmen to leave their communities and this has caused a lot of tension as the Federal Government have been inept in tackling the internal ethnic issues and has shown bias towards the Fulani herdsmen who have been known to be troublesome, attacking already cultivated farmlands with their cattle. The situation has become dire and might lead to clashes in the next reporting period. Amidst all these, a report was published on 23 January by a newspaper about how security forces protected Fulani herdsmen to feed their cattle in their community in Ogun State. Some residents claimed they were physically assaulted by the soldiers and intimidated them warning them to allow the herders into their village. These actions by the security forces and the inactions of the Federal Government are situations that might trigger ethnic clashes in the future.

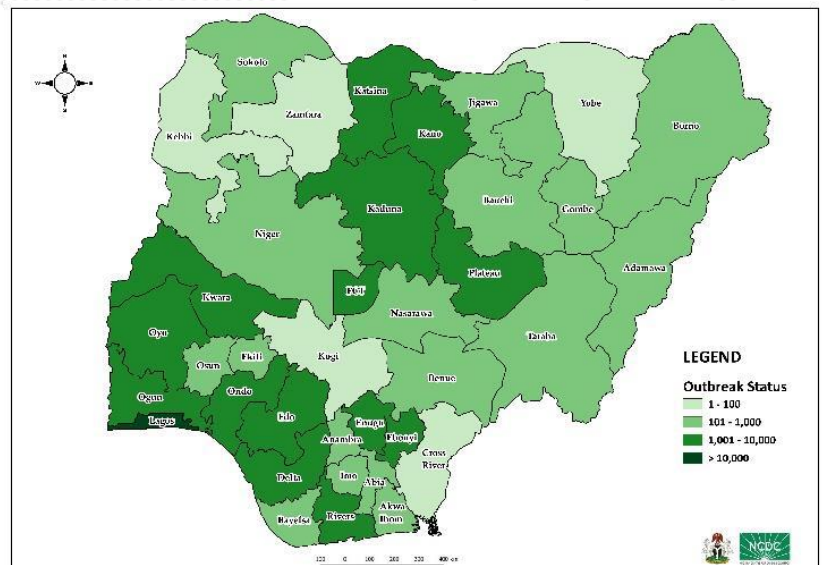
OVERVIEW OF WEEKLY COVID-19 NUMBERS

Weekly Covid Stats 18 - 24 January 2021



First case of COVID-19 was recorded in the country on 27 February after an Italian national returned from his trip to Milan. Other cases have been recorded in all parts of the country. As at 24 January 2021, total number of confirmed cases is at 120,602.

Confirmed cases for the week	8,598
Recoveries for the week	5,235
Deaths for the week	46
Total number of cases	120,602
Total Number of recoveries	95,174
Total number of deaths	1,495



Distribution of cumulative cases



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